



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
Fire Chief

At its meeting held September 14, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Fire Chief's recommendation that the Board, acting as the governing body of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, adopt a resolution fixing the Fiscal Year 2004-05 tax rate for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County voter-approved special tax, setting the rate per single family home at \$46.93, with all other rates proportionately adjusted, for a total levy of approximately \$52.7 million in Fiscal Year 2004-05, which will reduce the revenue the Fire District receives by \$3.4 million from last fiscal year to be expended on fire protection and emergency medical services throughout the Fire District; and instruct the Fire Chief and the Auditor-Controller to take all actions necessary to implement the special tax levy for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Dave Gillotte, President of the Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014, and Fire Captain Richard Guerrero addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Board, acting as the governing body of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, adopt a resolution fixing the Fiscal Year 2004-05 tax rate for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County voter-approved special tax at its current Fiscal Year 2003-04 rate; and instruct the Fire Chief and the Auditor-Controller to take all actions necessary to implement the special tax levy for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“In June 2004, this Board approved an annual allowance of up to \$1.6 million in Measure B funds to reimburse the County’s Fire Department for the operational costs of providing air transports in the Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys. These costs are already budgeted in the Department’s operating budget.

“When this Board allocated Measure B funds to the Fire Department, it was unaware that the Department would end that fiscal year with a \$70 million fund balance (the portion of its \$650 million operating budget left unused), a \$30 million reserve for capital purchases, a plan to accumulate another \$45 million reserve over the next two years, and an expectation of generating another \$50 million in fund balance this year. These additional funds are available even though the Department has funded expanded services where needed, particularly in the Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys.

“When it allocated Measure B funds to the Fire Department, the Board was also unaware that the County’s emergency rooms would continue to close at an accelerating rate. Measure B was explicitly intended to keep our current emergency medical system afloat – which is no small matter in a time when traditional sources of funding for these services are quickly eroding.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Knabe’s motion be amended to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to reallocate the County’s portion of the \$1.6 million in Measure B funds previously appropriated (Board Order No. 16 of June 21, 2004) to reimburse the Fire Department for the operational costs of providing emergency air transports.

In addition, Supervisor Yaroslavsky requested that the Board instruct the Auditor-Controller to prepare an analysis of the Fire Department’s budget and report back to the Board by the first meeting in January 2005, well in advance of the Board’s deliberations on the 2005-06 budget. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s amendment.

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Supervisor Molina made a substitute motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Acting as the governing body of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, approve the Fire Chief's aforementioned recommendations;
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to reallocate the County's portion of the \$1.6 million in Measure B funds previously appropriated (Board Order No. 16 of June 21, 2004) to reimburse the Fire Department for the operational costs of providing emergency air transports; and
3. Instruct the Auditor-Controller to prepare an analysis of the Fire Department's budget and report back to the Board by the first meeting in January 2005, well in advance of the Board's deliberations on the 2005-06 budget.

Said substitute motion failed to carry by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina and Burke; Noes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Antonovich and Knabe.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Antonovich and Knabe; Noes: Supervisors Molina and Burke, the Board took the following actions:

1. Acting as the governing body of the Consolidated Fire Protection District, adopted a resolution fixing the Fiscal Year 2004-05 tax rate for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County voter-approved special tax at its current Fiscal Year 2003-04 rate; and instructed the Fire Chief and the Auditor-Controller to take all actions necessary to implement the special tax levy for Fiscal Year 2004-05;
2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to reallocate the County's portion of the \$1.6 million in Measure B funds previously appropriated (Board Order No. 16 of June 21, 2004) to reimburse the Fire Department for the operational costs of providing emergency air transports; and
3. Instructed the Auditor-Controller to prepare an analysis of the Fire Department's budget and report back to the Board by the first meeting in January 2005, well in advance of the Board's deliberations on the 2005-06 budget.

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